

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Police Officer Applicant

Robert E. Mastrangelo

Investigation by Detective David Watson

Introduction:

Robert Mastrangelo has applied for a position as a Police Officer with the Town of Palm Beach. He is 28 years old, and was born in Camden, New Jersey. He currently resides with his father Joseph Mastrangelo, a retired New Jersey police officer, in [REDACTED] In March 2008, after graduating high school, Mastrangelo enlisted with the United States Air Force. During his military career, he was stationed in Florida, Alaska, and was deployed overseas to Afghanistan as a Munitions Crew Chief. During his military career, he dedicated much of his free time to others. His records indicate he volunteered at elementary schools, the Special Olympics, and distributed approximately 60 tons of food and supplies to homeless veterans over an 8-year career. In March 2016, after rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant, he was Honorably Discharged. He is currently enrolled as a Basic Law Enforcement Recruit at Palm Beach State College and is scheduled to graduate February 23, 2017.

Agencies Applied:

West Palm Beach Police Department

In June of 2016, Mastrangelo applied to the West Palm Beach Police Department online. Mastrangelo has completed his polygraph examination and is currently in the background phase. He has not been scheduled for an interview or psychological examination at this time. I confirmed this information with Investigator O'Dea, who provided me a copy of Mastrangelo's application. I found the application file to be consistent with no discrepancies.

Boynton Beach Police Department

In March of 2016, Mastrangelo applied to the Boynton Beach Police Department online. Mastrangelo completed two phases of the hiring process, Oral Board Exam, and Psychological Exam. I confirmed this information with Human Resource Associate Ercilia Messon, who stated, after a review of his psychological examination, Mastrangelo did not meet the minimum standards set forth by the agency. Messon stated "we were really disappointed because we wanted to hire him." Mastrangelo's initial application file was consistent, with no discrepancies.

Miami Dade Police Department

In February 2016 and March 2016, Mastrangelo applied to the Miami Dade Police Department online. Investigator Alvarez, stated Mastrangelo's application has not been processed due to an influx of approximately 10,000 applicants. I was unable to obtain a copy of Mastrangelo's initial applications with this agency.

Previous Employment:

08/2016- Present

Full Time Police Academy Student
PBSC

03/2008- 03/2016

United States Air Force
Title: Staff Sergeant

On 09/27/2016, I received Mastrangelo's Military records, from Randolph AFB, Texas, which confirm the above service dates and job duties. Mastrangelo **received numerous decorations** during his military career, to include, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defenses Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Overseas Ribbon.

I reviewed Mastrangelo's enlisted performance report for each year, dated 2009 to 2015. In the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, Mastrangelo "Clearly Exceeded Expectations" in performance assessments, standards and conduct, training, and teamwork. Each of the performance reports indicate Mastrangelo was responsible for multimillion dollar assets, and performed his duties with distinction and efficiency. His final assessment for each of the above performance reports rate Mastrangelo as "Truly Among the Best."

A review of his enlisted performance report dated March 2008 to November 2009, Mastrangelo received a "Does Not Meet Standard" in the area of "Standards, Conduct, Character, and Military Bearing, due to an incident involving an "off base, underage drinking incident." It should be noted, although he received a disciplinary referral for this offence, his overall performance rating for this period was "Above Average." This incident was noted and disclosed by Mastrangelo.

In addition, Mastrangelo noted two additional incidents, which were located in his military records. The first, dated March 27, 2016, he failed to attend a scheduled physical fitness test. The second, dated June 25, 2012 he was counseled for failing to arrive to work on time. No further disciplinary actions were located in his records.

On 10/12/2016, I received Mastrangelo's employment verification from Staff Sergeant Antonio McQueen. McQueen verified Mastrangelo job duties, which included the storage, delivery, building, inspecting, and testing of assets, such as, 20 MM ammunitions, bombs and countermeasures for fighter aircrafts. McQueen stated Mastrangelo was always dependable, punctual, and performed at the "highest level." In addition, he stated Mastrangelo was trusted, had a great relationship with other Airmen, and fulfilled his duties with the United States Air Force honorably.

12/2007 – 02/2008

Lucas Chevrolet

Lumberton, New Jersey

Title: Lot Person

On 09/15/2016, I made contact with Lucas Chevrolet's Human Resources Manager, Chris MacCar. She states Mastrangelo was employed with Lucas Chevrolet prior to her employment with the company and could not provide any details about his work ethics. She was able to located his employment file and noted he was employed as a "Lot Person" (which entails attending to vehicle's). MacCar stated Mastrangelo's employment file contained no disciplinary actions, and he was punctual, dependable, eligible for re-hire, and that he left the company for better opportunities.

06/2007- 10/2007

Gerlock Construction LLC

Moorestown, New Jersey

Title: Construction Helper

On 09/09/2016, I made contact with Nancy Bingham, the current owner of the company. Bingham stated Mastrangelo was employed with Gerlock Construction when her father, David Gerlock, owned the business. David Gerlock has been deceased since 2009, at which time Bingham became the owner of the company. Bingham stated she does not have any records dating back to her father's ownership and could not provide me with Mastrangelo's employment history.

06/2006- 09/2006

Whistler's Restaurant

Cinnaminson, New Jersey

On 10/25/2016, I made contact with Office Secretary Jean Hughes, to verify Mastrangelo's employment. Hughes conducted a records check, however, she was unable to confirm his employment. She did state that Mastrangelo's mother was employed with the company at this time, Mastrangelo often helped his mother with bussing tables and washing dishes.

Personal References:

Raymond Finizio, Philadelphia, PA

On 09/09/2016, I received Mastrangelo's Personal Reference Questionnaire from Raymond Finizio. Finizio has known Mastrangelo for 24 years, had attended school together, and played sports with him as a child. Finizio indicated Mastrangelo has an outgoing personality and makes friends easily. In addition, he said he can confide in Mastrangelo when he needs someone to talk to, and will help others in times of need, even if it is inconvenient to do so.

Finizio mentioned observing Mastrangelo under stress during an incident when he had discovered his parents were going to divorce. He stated Mastrangelo coped with the stress through friendship and support of family members. In addition, Finizio mentioned Mastrangelo has wanted to become a Police Officer since childhood, because of a rich history of family members serving in law enforcement.

Mario Correal, Homestead, FL

On 10/12/2016, I received Mastrangelo's Personal Reference Questionnaire from Mario Correal. Correal has known Mastrangelo for 5 years and served with him in the United States Air Force. Correal's relationship with Mastrangelo, was at first a supervisor, however, their relationship had grown over the years into a friendship. He went on to say Mastrangelo has a friendly and outgoing personality, and would often help new Airmen on his personal time. Correal said he observed Mastrangelo frustrated in the past, however, Mastrangelo would remain calm, think the problem through, and seek help if needed. Correal also mentioned Mastrangelo's desire to become a law enforcement officer, which he said was something Mastrangelo "frequently talked about."

Antonio McQueen, Miami, FL

On 10/20/2016, I received Mastrangelo's Personal Reference Questionnaire from Antonio McQueen. He has known Mastrangelo for 4 years, and served with him in the United States Air Force. McQueen stated they had been deployed together to Afghanistan and had been stationed with him at Homestead AFB. McQueen was Mastrangelo's supervisor, however, he had developed a personal relationship with him over the years. McQueen said he had observed Mastrangelo under stress during numerous missions, involving the management of munitions for F-16's, and that he "handled the stress well and accomplished the mission every day." In addition, McQueen stated Mastrangelo was dedicated to his job, displayed a willingness to help others, and often mentioned his desire to become a law enforcement officer.